



# Commuter Rail Study and Operations Plan

## PROJECT FACTS

### Project Scope

Who would use a commuter rail service? Where would the depots and park-n-rides need to be located? What kind of mass transit would be used to transport commuters from the train depot to the workplace? How much would the train tickets cost? How often would the trains run? What kind of facilities would be needed and what type of equipment would be used? Who would manage and operate the service? Would the service require public funding? What type of public funding would Alaskans support?

Called the *Southcentral Rail Network Commuter Study and Operation Plan*, the study is intended to form a blueprint for potential further actions taken by local and state officials to establish a viable and operational commuter rail system.

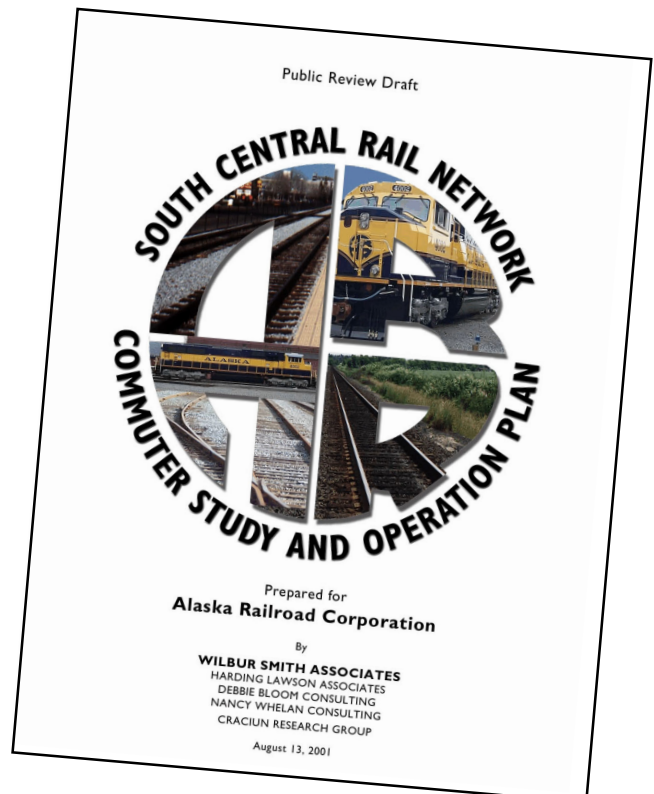
### Project Status

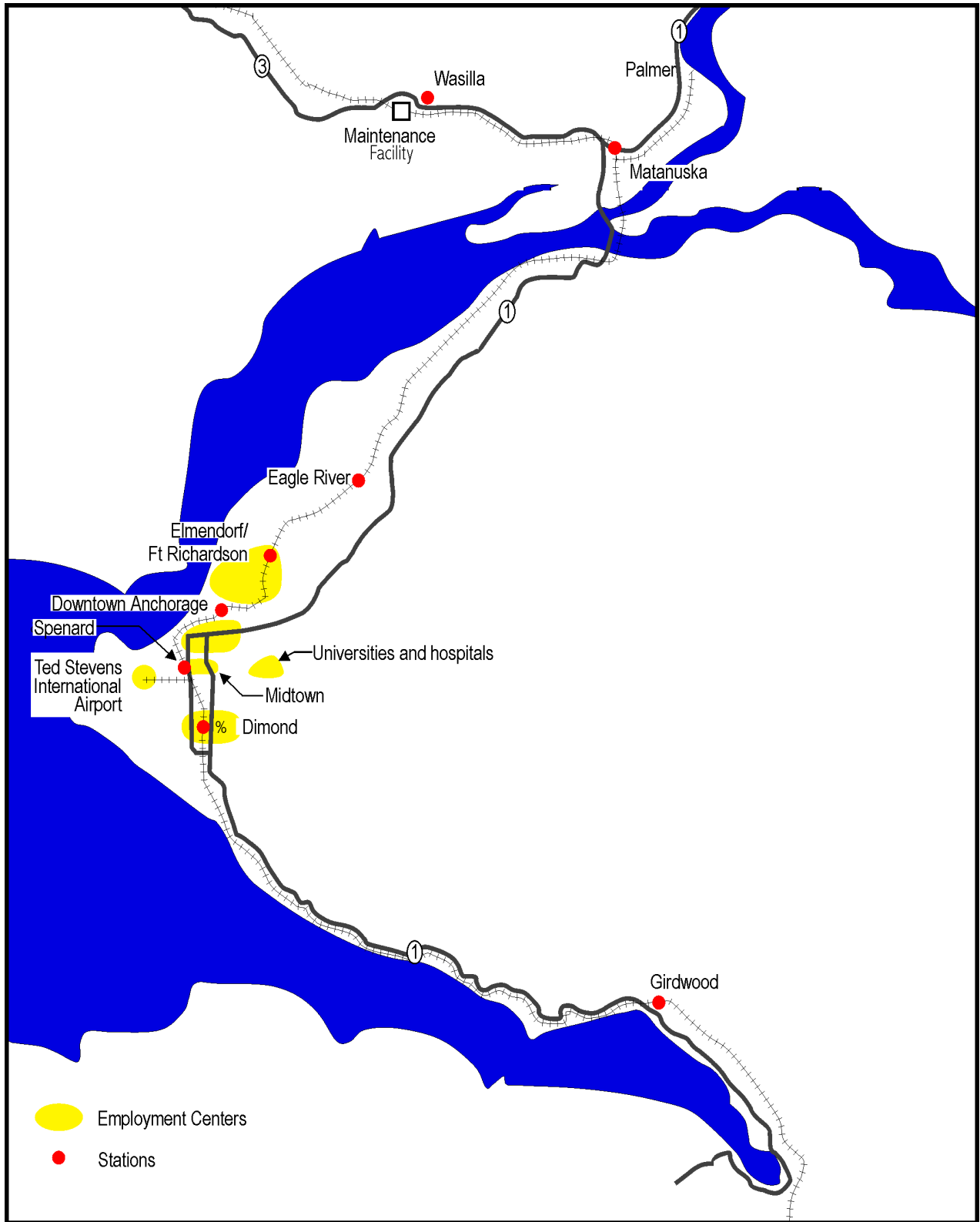
- Contract awarded in June 2000. First site visit of team July 17 - 21, 2000.
- Contact visits with officials from the Alaska Railroad (ARR), Mat-Su Borough, City of Wasilla and Anchorage.
- Public involvement plan included a survey of commuters in the Mat-Su Valley and commuter focus groups in January 2001.
- Draft study released Sept. 10, 2001. Copy available at ARRC web site - [www.alaskarailroad.com](http://www.alaskarailroad.com). A public comment period of 30 days followed. **Public comment was due October 31, 2001.**

- Initial public meetings were held October 3, 2001, at Anchorage's Loussac Library and October 10, at Wasilla's City Hall.
- Written comments and comments made during public meetings were incorporated into the final draft.
- The ARR Board of Directors will review and approve a final draft in early 2002. The final draft will be forwarded to Federal Transit Administration in spring 2002.

### Project Cost

- \$200,000 budget, funded 80% by the Federal Transit Administration, and 20% by the Alaska Railroad.





*A possible commuter system used for study and analysis purposes.*